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Abstract

2 Stented tubular grafts of expanded, sintered polytetrafluoroethylene
3 (PTFE). The stented PTFE grafts of the present invention include an integrally
4 stented embodiment, an externally stented embodiment, and an internally stented
5 embodiment. In each embodiment, the stent may be either self-expanding or
6 pressure-expandable. Also, in each embodiment, the stent may be coated or
7 covered with a plastic material capable of being affixed (e.g., heat fused) to PTFE.
8 Manufacturing methods are also disclosed by the individual components of the
9 stented grafts are preassembled on a mandrel and are subsequently heated to
10 facilitate attachment of the PTFE layer(s) to one another and/or to the stent.
11 Optionally, the stented graft may be post-flexed and post-expanded following it's
12 removal from the mandrel to ensure that the stented graft will be freely radially
13 expandable and/or radially contractible over it's full intended range of diameters.

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